

Uppunquato Kanyu

REQUEST FOR FUNDING

Pilot Diocesan Youth Ministry Program Pilot Program at St. Mesrob Armenian Church in Racine, Wisconsin.

Mission Statement

The days of dependance on an influx of Armenians from overseas to sustain the growth of the Armenian Church of America are long gone. In order to secure the continued survival of our church, we must cultivate the means of attracting our new generation of the faithful. The current lack of interest displayed by youth in our communities needs to be addressed.

Therefore, the implementation of Youth Ministry Department Programs is essential. Our program will include a balanced spectrum of activities structured to appeal to both the young and mature faithful, drawing them into joining our parishes and becoming dues paying active members of the Armenian Church Community.

Parishes Involved in the Pilot Program

St. Mesrob	Racine, Wisconsin
St. John the Baptist	Greenfield, Wisconsin
Holy Resurrection	South Milwaukee, Wisconsin
St. George	Waukegan, Illinois
St. James	Evanston, Illinois
St. Joachim & Anne	Palos Heights, Illinois
St. Gregory the Illuminator	Chicago, Illinois

Methodology

The first step in instituting the program is establishing a base of perspective participants. The targeted individuals. The next step is to develop specific programs for the three age groups. This task needs guidance from our Primate Bishop Khajag Barsamian, Diocesan Council and our clergy. Some possible age groups and age specific programs are lists below:

- Ages 13 thru 18 years
 - A.C.Y.O.A Juniors
 - Hye Camp Reunion
 - Viewing A Professional Sporting Event
 - Youth Olympics
 - Dances
 - Armenian Pride Day
 - Self supporting Activities
 - One on One Discussions
 - Religion

Ages 19 thru 25 years

Career Seminars
Armenian Pride Day
Dance/Socials
A.C.Y.O.A. Senior Support
One on One Discussions
Our Religion

Ages 25 and above

Couples groups
Singles Mixers
Sporting Events Outings
Current Events Discussions
One on One Discussions
Our Religion

This base of individuals can be established by using a number of records, which include the following resources:

Church Records (baptism, Sunday School, A.C.Y.O.A, etc.)
Midwest Regional Council (MRC) Records - Hye Camp Directories
"Early Armenian Settlers of Racine, 1890 to Present," written by the United Association of Tomarz.
A 1987 list that Compiles 1200 names of persons of one quarter and one half Armenian Descent in the Racine area.

The activities for the age group will be supported by a monthly newsletter including:

Upcoming events
Community events
National Armenian Information

Funding and Budgeting

Funding for our Program could come from the existing funds in the 1990 - 1991 Diocesan Budget which are earmarked for the Youth Ministry Department Funds (YMDF). If these funds are not used very soon, they will automatically revert back to the Armenian Church Endowment Fund (ACEF). In the future matching funds can be generated from existing religious and cultural foundations. St Mesrob's Parish Assembly will be asked in the immediate future to donate the use of their computer, laser printer, copy machine, and some office space. Additional funds will be raised through our pilot youth ministry program. Other expense are outlined in the proposed budget as follows:

Proposed Annual Budget

Personnel	
Director, part time	\$9,600
Assistant	\$1,200
Activity Expenses	\$2,600
Transportation Expense	\$1,600
Postage	\$1,200
Office Supplies (letterhead, envelopes, disks and etc.)	\$1,100
Telephone Expenses (includes telephone installation charges)	\$950
Office Equipment (file cabinet, telephone, desk and etc.)	<u>\$450</u>
total	\$18,700

Rationale

St Mesrob Armenian Church Racine, Wisconsin is central to a close - knit network of MRC Churches. We have the willingness, expertise, and human resources to take on such an urgently needed pilot project.

Our dedication to such a project has been shown by the fair amount of preliminary work (see resources listed on previous page already completed) and the official discussions with the St. Mesrob's Parish Council and Father Garabed Kochakian!

We also feel that locating this Youth Ministry Program in Racine would be cost effective. Expenditures here would be minimal compared to such a program if it were to be located elsewhere.

With the approval of the Diocese and the funding requested, we believe this program will succeed.

Approvals

April 16, 1991 St. Mesrob's Parish Council approved in concept, and to write proposal.
April 30 MRC meeting idea was approved in concept. (St. Joachim and Anne absent)

Proposed by Murad Gengozian, Diocesan Delegate - St. Mesrob Armenian Church Racine, WI